





but he made the work yet, labouring but to well  
doubt should find it a better thing than he did.  
Therefore he laid out <sup>much</sup> ~~unexpended~~ of the rents  
which his Hampshire property brought in, in  
draining, chalking, & otherwise improving the land,  
in rebuilding & putting into complete repair  
every farm & cottage in the estate; and this, "I do  
not of considerations for future Dukes of Wellington,  
I am a rich man, because I have my pay as  
Commander-in-Chief, & hold other offices under  
Government. My successors will not have these  
sources of income, although I consider it my  
duty to lay by for him all that is not required  
out of my rents, to put & keep the property in  
perfect order."

So simple were his habits, that, notwithstanding the  
Duke's great & regular very frequent - dinner parties  
to Duke <sup>and for</sup> ~~from~~ his neighbours, it is impossible  
that his household expenditures should <sup>have</sup> ~~been~~ <sup>been</sup>  
even when he entertained royal personages  
besides as he did - George the Fourth, Henry  
William & Queen Adelaide, & the Queen &  
A Prince Consort more than once, he made no  
vast preparations, but judged of what would be  
agreeable to them by his own simple standards.  
When the Queen visited him at the instance,  
the chief preparation he made was  
to send for a carpenter to work out a window  
thus giving a new sea-view: this was the sort of  
reception the Queen liked: the habits of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Duke  
only the greatest, but the least & wisest of these  
subjects: were always greatly to his advantage.



Sheshfield Day is as everyone knows, the property-  
presented <sup>by the nation</sup> with 'Great-Duke' ~~bag~~ in recognition of  
Waterloo. The pleasant park measures about a  
mile by a mile & half, with trees are the one distinction  
of the estate: there is a mile-long avenue of  
Cornish elms, flowering trees, leading up to the  
principal entrance of the house; other are old  
oaks, very fine, feeders of Lebanon, over a hundred  
feet high, white thorns, of every great size;  
the cedars are in the grounds to the north of  
the house, where there are also some very fine  
antique trees. The finest in England, it is said,  
showed a three chestnut tree raised from Chestnut  
Court to the Duke from America because General  
Washington had planted the trees that bore them;  
trees raised elsewhere from the chestnuts borne  
by these Sheshfield ~~say~~ trees would have a pedigree  
worth speaking of.

The creamy-white house lies low in the valley  
of the Loddon which flows through the park. It is  
a good Queen Anne house, with stacks of half  
chimneys shining out amongst the trees, with  
the stables, kennel, groom's quarters, &c. all  
facing the entrance, & making a sort of street - in  
the French taste of the period at which it was  
built.

Set in the pavement of the large entrance hall  
are the two less settled glories brought here from  
Lilleshall for their better preservation; and here  
waves the Duke's banner, which used to hang  
over his stall in St. George's Chapel, Windsor; & as  
you may make acquaintance with Copenhagen,  
as he looked in life, there is a <sup>fine</sup> group of Waxen  
as

the most interesting in that class. When asked which of the French marshals he considered the best officer? he replied, 'Masséna. I always found him when I least desired that he should be.'"

On the ground floor are a drawing room, dining room, library, & the Duke's own room, all opening into one another & forming a sort of gallery, & all of which you can say no more than that they are comfortably furnished; the pictures are not particularly interesting, excepting a half-length of the Duke, by Lawrence which hangs in the library: of the books, a great many were presented by their authors, at home & abroad. As for novels, there was none to turn; there was hardly a novel published but he received a copy, & sometimes did the miracle of perusing both before that the Duke gave orders that no book should be taken in unless they were sent <sup>to him in his private</sup> with his permission.

Considering that Stratfield Saye is simply a gentleman's residence, by no means striking, rich or without, it is amusing to read, - "It was on this unideal peculiarities that Shalever happened to take his own possessed great attention in his eyes. Stratfield Saye, a commodious house of the date of Queen Anne, but in an architectural point of view certainly not an imposing one, he regarded as one of the best in England. His pictures, his stables, his premises, his horses, & his carriages, were all regarded in the same light."

The estate of the is held of the Crown by an indenture: on the 18th of June every year an annual tribute

Flag is presented at Windsor, this is hung about a  
lust-gate clock which stands in the great chamber.  
The lust is by Chantrey, who took occasion before  
the clock a piece of information which struck to him;  
by after, when sitting for sketch, he said "Now mind  
the shape of my head, it's a square head. I know it,  
for Chantrey told me so". Blenheim is held  
by the Duke of Marlborough on a similar tenure,  
the Blenheim flag being presented on the road  
of August, hung above a bust of the Duke of  
Marlborough.

Strath does not in this case bear the settled name.  
The name should be written, as indeed it is  
pronounced, Stratfieldsay, being <sup>derived</sup> ~~derived~~  
like the other two Stratfield; (Stratfield Turgis  
& Stratfield Mortimer). From the great-Roman  
Street which ran through Leicester, to London  
on the one hand & Bath on the other; the 'Devil  
Highway' it is called. Here it is still in  
existence. The family of Saye came in  
with the Conquest & they held the estate until  
the reign of Richard II. When it passed by  
marriage into Debridg's hands. In the reign  
of Charles I., it was purchased by Sir William  
Rolt, & remained in the Rolt family during  
the lives of the great Lord Chatham & his greater  
son, both of whom spent much of their leisure  
here. In 1776, the Stratfield Saye Rolt was created  
Lord Rivers, & it was from the Lord Rivers of  
1815 that the estate was purchased for the  
Great Duke.



length appears to have been covered by <sup>L 22 P 15 Enc 34</sup> the principal  
household buildings which formed a quadrangle  
round an inner court; three principal pavements  
remain. ~~ornamented~~ with pictures in mosaic -  
the largest being, probably, that of the great triclinium  
or banqueting hall. These pavements are no  
doubt the most interesting 'find', but besides  
these are fragments of Ionic columns, remains of bath  
& hypocaust, & a curious open fireplace whereon  
Sussex logs were some-time burnt. Splendid  
as this villa doubtless was, the abode of legate  
or propraetor, externally, it probably presented



He & his forefathers have observed that if wood  
be burnt on a field, & the ashes be mixed  
with the soil, the probable result is a  
good harvest. On this simple principle  
his system of farming is based. When  
spring comes round, the leaves begin  
to appear on the trees, a band of peasants  
armed with their hatchets, proceed to  
some spot in the woods previously  
fixed upon. Here they begin to make a  
clearing. This is no easy matter, for  
tree-felling is hard and tedious work;  
but they have been brought up to the trade  
or work with giffowr. When they have felled  
all the trees great & small, they return  
to their homes & think no more about  
their clearing till the autumn, when they  
return in order to strip the fallen trees  
of their branches, to pick out what they  
want for building or fire-wood, & to pile  
up the remainder in heaps.

The logs for building or firewood are dragged  
away by horses as soon as the first fall  
of snow has made a good slippery road,  
but ~~the~~ <sup>the wood-piles</sup> ~~are~~ <sup>are piled up in heaps,</sup> allowed to remain till  
the following spring, when <sup>the</sup> ~~they~~ are stirred  
up with long poles & ignited. The flames  
first appear at several points, & then, with  
the help of the dry grass & chips, rapidly  
form a gigantic conflagration such as is  
never seen in more densely peopled  
countries. If the fire has done its work  
properly, the whole of the space is covered  
with a layer of ashes; & when these have  
been slightly mixed with soil by means  
of a light-plough, the seed is sown.  
On the field prepared in this original fashion